

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants propose to cancel Figs. 9-12 as shown in the accompanying ANNOTATED SHEETS SHOWING CHANGES. This effectively cancels the 2 "NEW SHEETS" of drawings. The remaining 5 drawing sheets are as shown, i.e., sheets 1/5 - 5/5.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the drawings and the specification on pages 2 and 4 to cancel the alleged New Matter.

The Examiner has additionally objected to the drawings stating, on page 3 of the Office Action, "Additionally, the shaving aid additive retaining means wherein such means comprises a plurality of grooves as now set forth in claim 1 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). It is noted that the original disclosure sets forth that the shaving aid retaining means is either or both of a plurality of ridges 30-32 (e.g., see page 4, lines 3-9, particularly lines 5-6 of the original disclosure) or a groove 48 (e.g., see page 4, lines 27-32). A plurality of such grooves (e.g., see page 5, lines 31-32) is not shown."

Applicants submit that the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, in the specification as filed on page 4, lines 3-11, concentric ridges 30, 31 and 32 are mentioned. These ridges are clearly shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings. However, on page 4, lines 11-18, grooves 34, 35, 36 are described as functioning as "temporary storage zones for shaving aid", and that the flow time of shaving aid would be notably longer if such a profiled decoration cap is used. These grooves 34, 35, 36 are also clearly shown in Fig. 4. As such, Applicants submit that there is indeed support for the claim 1 element "plurality of grooves" forming the shaving aid additive retaining means (Applicants have nonetheless revised claim 1 to claim "at least one groove").

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 2, 4 and 5 have been cancelled, while claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 2. In addition, claim 13 has been amended to be an independent claim.

Applicants believe that the above changes answer the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2, rejection of the claims. and respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by International Patent Application Publication No. WO 02/051598 (herein known as "WIPO Pub."). The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083591 to Geertsma et al. in view of WIPO Pub., or alternatively, in view of U.S. Patent 1,416,199 to Hasselquist.

Applicants believe that the above changes render the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection moot.

The Geertsma et al. publication discloses a shaving apparatus of the rotary type in which a cutting member includes an annular region 8 with hair-trapping apertures 5. Inside this annular region 8 is a skin support surface 9 having a plurality of ridges 10 formed in an annular region 11 of the skin support surface 9 substantially directly adjacent the annular region 8.

The WIPO Pub. discloses an auxiliary part for an electric shaver, in which, in the case of a rotary-type shaver, a disc-

shaped material 14 comprising a lubricant is situated within the annular outer cutting member 4, while an annular skin stretcher member 9, in the form of alternate grooves and ridges, is positioned outside of the annular outer cutting member 4.

The Hasselquist patent discloses a razor blade guard and face plate for a circular shaver, in which the central circular face plate has circular corrugations to facilitate the razor smoothly gliding over the skin of the user.

The Examiner has stated that Geertsma discloses a shaving apparatus with almost every structural limitation of the claimed invention, including: "... and a device (e.g., 9, 10) for providing a shaving aid additive to said skin contacting surface...".

Applicants would like to point out that Geertsma et al. neither discloses nor suggests providing a shaving aid additive. Rather, Geertsma et al. merely discloses a skin support surface 9 (within an external annular cutting member) and ridges 10 formed on the skin support surface.

Applicants acknowledge that WIPO Pub. discloses a disc-shaped material as a lubricant. However, claim 1 specifically provides "wherein the shaving aid additive is one of a liquid, a gel, a foam, a cream, a water-soluble hard material". Applicants submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Geertsma et al. nor WIPO Pub. that the disc-shaped lubricant is a member of such a class.

The Examiner further indicates that Geertsma et al. discloses "shaving aid additive retaining means (e.g., 9, 10) provided on at least part of said skin contact surface" and that "the shaving aid additive retaining means comprises a plurality of grooves [now "at lease one groove"] (e.g., the grooves formed between features 10) that prevent the shaving aid additive from entering apertures in the external cutting member".

Applicants submit that the ridges 10 or Geertsma et al. (or the grooves between the ridges are intended to act as "shaving aid additive retaining means". Further, even if one were to assume that the grooves between the ridges 10 form shaving aid additive retaining means, these groove would direct any shaving aid additive toward the apertures in the external cutting member - it should be noted that these "grooves" are radial in nature and as such, would allow, if not encourage, any shaving aid additive toward the apertures.

In the subject invention, the at least one groove of the shaving aid additive retaining means is annular in configuration and tends to form "temporary storage zones for shaving aid" thereby impeding any progression toward the apertures of the external annular cutting member.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 1, 3 and 13, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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